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Sunday School Lesson

TWO BROTHERS LEARN TOLERANCE

TEXT LESSON — Mark 9:14-17; Luke 9:40-44; 1 John 4:7-8.

Simon (Peter) was not the only disciple Jesus nicknamed. The two sons of Zebedee — James and John — he very appropriately nicknamed "sons of thunder." They were evidently of violent and sulphurous temperaments, with a highly developed sense of righteous indignation when the occasion called for it. They were, too, some-

what narrow in their outlook. As the text tells on one occasion John reported to Jesus that he and James had found a man doing good in the name of Jesus. This man was evidently a believer in Jesus, but not specially chosen for the task in which he was engaged, as were the Apostles. "We told him he had better stop it," said John, "because he was not authorized by you as an Apostle." Very patiently Jesus intimated that "good works" are not the special prerogative of Apostles, and that all who do good in sincerity are on his side in the struggle against evil. That was lesson number one in tolerance which he taught these two "sons of thunder."

Jealousy is a subtle and dangerous thing, especially among people engaged in the same enterprise. It is not easy to admit that others of different denominations in the Christian church, or political party, or nation, or race, can do the same kind of good works as we do. It goes decidedly against the grain, when, as so often happens, they do things better than we do. We very easily slip into the attitude that we are the only ones concerned with doing good in the right way. It hurts our pride to admit that others may be doing it even better. But the work of Christ is hindered if we do not want anyone to have a part in it except orthodox members of our own particular church. We must welcome every bit of help we can get in the cause of good. We should welcome his help, be thankful for it, and encourage him in his efforts. I think the "churches" are doing that today. Would to God political parties would do the same thing.

Lesson number two in tolerance came on the occasion of Jesus being refused shelter for the night at a Samaritan village. Samaritans were usually unfriendly to Jews, and vice versa, and on this occasion it would seem that they refused hospitality on the grounds that this was a band of Jews on their way to a Jewish feast in Jerusalem. Perhaps they had good reason to refuse because of past experiences of Jews on their way to a religious feast. The point, however, is that the anger of James and John flared up



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**L.O.D.E. CHAPTER MARKS
SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY**

The 7th anniversary of the Countess of Strathmore Chapter, L.O.D.E., was celebrated on Thursday, April 26th, with a dinner held in the Oddfellows Hall. The tables were decorated with spring flowers and members of Verdun Rebekah Lodge catered for the delicious meal.

A toast to the King was proposed by Mrs. L. McClintock, and a toast to the Chapter by Mrs. W. G. O. Thompson was responded to by Mrs. McClintock.

Mrs. Norman Verdec presented a gift to the retiring regent, Mrs. Leonard Bell and thanked her for her efforts during the past two years. A gift was also presented to Mrs. Wallace Thompson in appreciation of the auditing of the Chapter's books by her and her husband.

Following the dinner, a brief business meeting was held at Mrs. Bell's home on Charles Street. Court whist was played, winners being Mrs. Alex Greig and Miss Hilda Erwin. Mrs. W. G. O. Thompson poured coffee, assisted by Mrs. Bell and other Chapter members.

BUY NORMAN'S LUNCH

Norman's Lunch, popular snack and dance spot at the intersection of No. 7 and No. 10 highways just out of Brampton has had a change of ownership. The new owners, George Greensward and Charles Royce are taking over today. Both are well-known in Georgetown, and George has made his home here since returning from overseas last year. He saw action in Sicily with the Queen's Own Rifles and was a prisoner-of-war of the Germans until his release shortly before V-Day. He is married to the former Evelyn Sanderson of Georgetown and they have a daughter, Carol.

Mr. Royce is married to Mrs. Greensward's sister, Jean. He worked in Malton during the war and has lately been employed with the Harley-Kay Marland firm in town. The two families will occupy living quarters at Norman's lunch and will continue to operate this fine establishment which consists of gas pumps, a lunch counter and dance floor which district folk have patronized well since its opening several years ago. The former proprietor, Ernest Plotron is moving to Wasaga Beach.

not only at the refusal of hospitality but perhaps too at the suggestion that they and their Master should be likened to a band of unruly and noisy Jewish holiday-makers. They wanted immediate revenge — "fire from heaven: to burn the village up. Again Jesus teaches the true spirit of God. The spirit of revenge, he says, is taboo. The purpose of Christ is not to destroy but to save. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:17). It is easy for us to desire punishment for wrongdoers, when we should desire their reformation and salvation. It was not an easy thing for Jesus to teach such men as these (very much like us) such a lofty purpose, but he sought to do so by word and example, and to impart to them that quality of life by which they could put this purpose into daily practice.

Tradition has it that the Epistles of John, from one of which the last passage in the lesson is taken, was written by the Apostle John. Some scholars will not accept the tradition and maintain it was written by another John. Personally, I prefer the traditional authorship. The internal evidence is greatly in favour of the Apostle's authorship. The teachings of the Epistle seems to be that of one who was so intimately associated with Jesus that he had caught his spirit. Almost it would seem to be Jesus himself who wrote the epistle. It is the teaching of one who has experienced a definite rebirth of the spirit: — a rebirth from hatred and revenge to love and tolerance. Note the words given in the text: "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." If this is John the Apostle's writing, then we realize that through Jesus Christ, a violent, jealous, vengeful and powerful man, was spiritually transformed. And what Jesus accomplished in him and in his brother (read the Epistle of James), he can accomplish in you and me and the rest. Of every person like this who becomes a genuine Christian, it may be said, "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." And certainly in these days filled as they are with the spirit of hatred, suspicion, and revenge, such a spiritual rebirth as this, is a desirable thing for the peoples of the nations.

It took time of course for the growth and development of this new spirit to be perfected in James and John. Such things do not come in a day. But the secret of such growth is constant fellowship and friendship with Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today and forever, the living Christ. He gives us power to triumph over our weaknesses and follies and sins; is sympathetic and understanding when we fail; and by an unflinching friendship leads us on to the place where at last we fall not.

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